Panchayati Raj

MARCH 1963

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, RURAL EXTENSION TRAINING CENTRE
28 MAR 1963
KALLUPATTI

1. *Gram Sabha members taking the pledge at Ulloor, Trivandrum* (Kerala), *on the occasion of the inauguration of the Village Volunteer Force on 26th January, 1963.*

SHRI S. K. DEY'S MESSAGE

"RURAL INDIA MARCHES ON TO A NEW PILGRIMAGE RURAL INDIA IS YET TO HAVE THE PLACE WHICH IS HER'S. FUTURE BECKONS TO HER. MAY SHE RISE EQUAL TO THE CALL OF DESTINY! CORDIAL WISHES TO ALL GRAM SABHAS IN THE PLEDGE THEY TAKE. GREETINGS TO THE VILLAGE VOLUNTEER FORCE NEWBORN."

Members of the Village Volunteer Force, Ulloor, Trivandrum (Kerala) *marching past in a file.*

Vol. III MARCH 1963 No. 12
PHALGUNA 1884

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Editor : VISHNU DUTT
(Asstt. Editor, Publications Division)

BUSINESS NOTICE

Single Copy : 15 nP.
Annual : Rs. 1·25

All enquiries regarding agency and rates of subscription and advertisements may be addressed to the Publications Division, Old Secretariat, Delhi-6. Editorial correspondence may be addressed to the Editor, *Panchayati Raj*, Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj & Cooperation, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.

THUS WE SHALL BUILD

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

"*Friends and Comrades,*

TODAY IS an auspicious day, the anniversary of the formation of our Republic. We celebrate Independence Day on the 15th August. That is a great day for us. But on the 26th January, we completed that process of Independence by establishing the Republic of India.

That completed our political revolution, and we applied ourselves to the next great task, namely, the economic and social revolution of the Indian people. We started Five-Year Plans for this purpose, and now we are in the middle of the Third Five-Year Plan.

We wanted to progress on all lines, both agricultural and industrial as well as in regard to education and health. We wanted everyone in India to progress and to establish a Welfare State for all. But, as we all know, the great majority of our population lives in the villages of India, and it is their progress and welfare that is most important for our country.

To help them, therefore, we started many years ago the Community Development Programme, and now this scheme has spread almost to all our villages. It woke up rural India, and the people there began to stir. Much good was done by this programme. But it also showed our failings.

Another great step was then taken by the establishment of Panchayati Raj, to give the people of the villages a large amount of control of their own affairs. Instead of big officers controlling them, the Panchayats got the power and the resources. Panchayati Raj has now been established in most of the States of India, and the remaining States will follow soon.

Along with the Panchayati Raj, there is the movement for Co-operation, that is, Sahkari Samaj. This is meant to democratise our economy and to provide economic support to the vast mass of our people. Panchayati Raj and Sahkari Samaj will not only bring political but also economic democracy to the village and will make it self-reliant and strong.

A GREAT STRUGGLE

During the last three or four months, we have had to face a great crisis, because our neighbour, China, has attacked us and invaded our territory. Our people all over India, in villages and towns, have faced this challenge bravely, because it is a challenge not only to our freedom, but also to our well-being, our culture and our ideal of a

democratic life. We have before us a great struggle. Whether the fighting on our frontier goes on or not, this struggle is with us, and we have all to do our utmost to help in this struggle.

Our Five-Year Plan aimed at development of our country and our people. It is now to be so fashioned as to be especially helpful in the defence of our country. But this will not mean that we will cut down our development schemes, because that will weaken us and be bad for our people. We have, therefore, to bear this double burden of defence and development. I am sure we shall all do so and come out of this struggle triumphant.

What are our villages and the mighty rural population that lives there, to do in these circumstances ? Rural India feeds our nation, including the Army and the other defence forces. It provides strength to our nation. It gives us our brave soldiers. Rural India, therefore, must organise itself for this great effort.

VILLAGE VOLUNTEER FORCE

We have now decided to have in every village a Village Volunteer Force which will devote itself to this great task. Every able-bodied adult in the five and a half lakh villages of India should constitute himself a volunteer to serve his village and the nation.

The Volunteer Force in every village will have three tasks: more production, education and defence.

Defence not only is the work of our brave soldiers at the front, but it means increasing our production greatly. In order to do this, we have to use new methods in agriculture which will increase our production. We must have minor irrigation works, field channels, soil conservation and dry farming. This will create community assets in the villages, which will raise the standards of the people there and give them a recurring source of revenue for the Panchayats for development. We should grow not only cereals, but also vegetables and fruit.

Education is very important. The Village Volunteer Force will help in educating others and will also take up the work of giving correct information and better understanding of our great struggle. The radio and other methods will be used for this purpose. It is important that all people should know what is going on in the country and especially in our struggle for freedom and economic development.

Thirdly, the Village Volunteer Force will look after village defence. They will look after railways, roads, posts and telegraphs, and they will help in keeping law and order in the village.

Labour creates money. Trained labour creates more resources. Each village must have a plan of development which will assure the needs of life to every family. We want to have Defence Labour Banks all over India. If everyone contributes a minimum of twelve days' labour per year to this Bank, this will be of great benefit to the village and to the country. Thus, if twenty crore adults in the rural sector work in this way, they will produce assets of three hundred crores of rupees a year for themselves.

In every village, people must look after those who require help. Children must be especially looked after and others who may be without work or are disabled. Every village must take pride in the fact that everyone there is looked after properly. We must consider the village as a big family where each person helps the others. In this way, the whole country can be considered a large family in which people of all religions who live here, are members.

Thus, we shall build up happy and prosperous villages, and every fellow countryman of ours will be cared for and will add to the wealth of the village and the country. We have to preserve our freedom and people's Raj and make this a large co-operative enterprise.

Friends and comrades: You will take a pledge today in all your villages to preserve our freedom from any aggressor or invader, and to work for the betterment of all our people. Thus, we shall serve our dear country as well as our villages and all our people, and make India a happy place for all her children. Let us, therefore, take this pledge, understanding its full meaning and live up to it. We shall then be worthy sons of our great Bharat Mata. JAI HIND!

Prime Minister's speech broadcast on the Radio, while inaugurating the Village Volunteer Force on 26th January, 1963.

LETTERS

GRAINS FOR DEFENCE

SIR,

THE MINISTRY of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation is to be congratulated on formulating the scheme of Village Volunteer Force and Defence Labour Bank, which is very timely. This is in keeping with the present temper of the rural masses. But the scheme like many earlier ones will remain a mere pious hope unless it is worked out in a systematic way and in the proper spirit. Rightly has the emphasis been laid on increasing food production. The idea has to be ingrained in the minds of the village people that the production of foodgrains is as important for the defence effort as to produce the guns. Those who are producing additional foodgrains are doing as much responsible work as those carrying the gun on the War Front. Every farmer working on the field should have a feeling that he, too, is a soldier. Each village must undertake to produce at least two tons of additional foodgrains to win the war. The villagers will thus have a feeling of active participation in the defence efforts. It is in this spirit of "Grains for Defence" that every village should draw up a concrete programme of food production. Projects involving human labour on a mass scale, such as the digging of field channels, bunding, reclamation, afforestation etc. should be tackled by the Production Task Force with the help of the labour provided by the Defence Labour Bank.

DELHI.
10-1-63.

Yours etc.,
R. C. Jain

* * * *

DEFENCE LABOUR BANK VS. SHRAMDAN

SIR,

THE SCHEME of Defence Labour Bank evolved under the pressure of the National Emergency would have been welcomed at any time during the past ten years the Community Development Programme has been in operation. However, it is never too late to mend. Unless we are prepared to learn from our past failures, we may not expect to make much progress. Some people have likened this scheme to the Shramdan of yore that characterised Community Development Programme in its earlier phases. But this is far from the truth. The two should be viewed apart. We should safeguard against the defects and weaknesses inherent in the shramdan movement. Though the nature of working in both is voluntary, the half-hearted and haphazard way of doing shramdan is to be avoided in the present scheme. A Bank is a bank and a proper account has to be maintained of the labour put in by every able-bodied person in the village. While it would be preferable for most of the villagers to do manual labour on site, exceptions may be made in the case of old and sick persons as well as those who are not accustomed to do manual work. Of course, those exempted from the obligation of putting in manual labour will be asked to pay in cash in lieu thereof. The amount charged should be in proportion to the individual's one day's earning. This system of accounting will be in consonance with the principle of "from each according to his capacity, to each according to his needs". In the final analysis, this will prove more remunerative than the rigid application of the principle that every able-bodied person, irrespective of his normal vocation, should put in manual labour. For example, a Mahajan who has never done manual labour, if compulsorily asked to do prescribed physical labour may give work worth 4 annas in a rupee only. Instead, if he were asked to pay his one day's earning in cash, it might come to more than 2 rupees.

Though an essential aspect of the scheme is its voluntary nature, yet a sufficiently strong public opinion shall have to be built through the Gram Sabha in favour of the scheme so that it becomes impossible for anybody to escape on one pretext or another from contributing his share of prescribed labour.

Satara,
MAHARASHTRA,
5-1-63.

Yours etc.,
B. R. Bansal.

(*Continued on page* 11)

A GRAM SABHA PLEDGES ITSELF

(By Our Correspondent)

REPUBLIC DAY, 1963: Time 9 a.m. Gram Sabhas all over the country were listening over the radio to the inspiring speech of Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, urging them to a fresh dedication, to work hard, produce more and to develop a firm will to resist the aggression on our borders and to defend the honour and integrity of our mother country. While in New Delhi, he walked on foot leading a huge procession of M.Ps., Ministers and over a lakh of citizens, each Gram Sabha was having its own procession of men, women and children going round the village and covering at the Village Chowpal to take the prescribed common pledge for "mobilisation of all its resources, both human and material, as its contribution to the national effort". The whole country, with its two lakh three thousand Gram Sabhas no less than the big cities was pulsating with a common purpose. Never before was there such synchronisation in thought and action, expressing the determined will of the 44 crore individuals of our vast country.

Big cities are always the hub of activity. We thought of experiencing the warmth of action in the interior villages,—removed from the hustle and bustle of cities. If the pulse gave a beat there too, nothing more was required for that showed that the whole body had been charged with the new dynamism.

Starting early in the morning at five O'clock, we reached a small village Bijwa in Alwar District of Rajasthan, 125 miles away from Delhi. The loud cries of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" greeted us as we saw school children going round the village in a procession, carrying national flags in their hands. Soon we saw another group of school boys coming in bullock-carts from another village to participate in the celebrations. As they entered the village, a pair of Nagauri bullocks ran so fast that the cart received a severe jolt as soon as one of its wheels got into a small pit. The young boys and girls were thrown out and they fell on the ground. There was loud crying and wailing. Luckily, no one received injury. A small boy would not stop crying. Bakhtawar Singh, a young boy aged ten years came forward and rubbing the injured knee of his fellow student remarked, "What a pity! You cry over such a little fall. See our brave Jawans are fighting so heroically against the Chinese." These words worked like a magic. The small boy immediately stopped crying and was soon on his feet, walking with the other boys. I was given to understand that Bijwa Panchayat consisted of four villages and that the school children as well as adult members from all these villages had come to participate in the Republic Day function.

Nearly a hundred people had collected in the village school. The function started with the hoistation of the National flag, all those present standing to attention while the "*Jan Gan Man*" was being sung in chorus. Amongst those present on the occasion were Shri Ladha Ram, Pradhan, all the members of the Panchayat, Shri Shiv Singh, Agriculture Extension Officer, Shri Hukam Singh Mewati, School teacher, Shri Kishan Chand, Patwari and Shri Budha Lal Mittal, Secretary Panchayat. Someone brought his radio in the meeting. Everyone listened attentively to the inspiring message of the Prime Minister, calling upon "every able-bodied adult in the villages to constitute himself a Volunteer to serve his village and the nation".

The Sarpanch stepped forward and administered the prescribed oath to all the persons present. The oath-taking ceremony being over, the scheme of Village Volunteer Force with its three functions of Production, Civil Defence, and Mass Education were explained to the audience by the Agriculture Extension Officer, the Panchayat Secretary and the Sarpanch respectively. An appeal was made to the members present to offer their names for enlistment in any of the three Task Forces of Production or Civil Defence or Mass Education. About fifteen people offered themselves to serve in the Production Task Force. Among them was Santokh Singh, a young man of 24 who having matriculated two years ago had taken to agriculture as a profession. He was a progressive farmer and had adopted all the improved farming methods himself. He along with some other cultivators who had also given their names for the Production Task Force, had raised paddy and sugarcane crops for the first time in the village. These crops had proved very paying. The village as a whole which consisted of a majority of Punjabi refugee cultivators was very keen to bring about improvement in its agriculture. Even though it was still in the Pre-Extension Stage, it had made remarkable progress through judicious use of manure, fertilisers and other intensive cultivation measures which are characteristic of the sturdy Punjabi farmers.

Twelve persons volunteered to serve in the Task Force for Civil Defence. They were all sturdy youths with ages ranging from eighteen to forty years. Inder Dass, an ex-military man had already been nominated by the Panchayat to serve as Dalpati. He was to receive training in a camp to be held shortly.

The Task Force for Mass Education seemed to hold out charm for a limited section only. About a dozen names were received amongst whom was an elderly person, popularly known as Vaid ji who commanded great respect in the village. Dalip Singh, a young man of twenty years who had matriculated last year also offered his services for this work.

Shrimati Pritam Kaur, the lady member of the Panchayat pleaded for more attention to be given to the womenfolk. She assured that the women were prepared to play their part in the present national emergency. She desired that a Gram Sevika should be posted in their village in order to help raise the level of understanding and craftsmanship of the village women.

The Defence Labour Bank Scheme was next discussed. The Sarpanch explained to the Gram Sabha members that each able-bodied person in the village was expected to offer 12 days' labour in a month. He asked if anybody present had any objection to the scheme. There was no dissenting voice. Ram Pal, an old man of sixty got up to say that he was too old to do any manual labour. It was decided that he should be exempted from the obligation. Soon after, Ladha Ram, a Mahajan got up and said, "I am not used to do manual labour. Instead, I am prepared to pay the required wages in cash." It was thought fit that he should pay Rs. 18 only in lieu of his labour. This was calculated at the rate of Rs. 1/8/- per day being the prevalent labour wages.

Soon the discussion switched over to determining the project that should be entrusted to the Production Task Force. The Gram Sabha members decided to undertake construction of a drain in order to clear water from the water-logged fields. This project, on completion was expected to bring 100 acres of land under cultivation. A lot remained to be done in so far as the raising of the Village Volunteer Force and the preparation of the Defence Labour Bank account was concerned. They proposed to complete these preliminaries within a month before the Production Task Force started its operations on the project.

ALL HONOUR TO THEIR SELF-SACRIFICE

A BLIND WOMAN LEADS THE VILLAGE

SHRIMATI KAHNI DEVI, a blind widow of village Nagi in Karanpur Panchayat Samiti, Rajasthan, presented an amount of Rs. 500 towards the National Defence Fund. Her inspiring example of self-sacrifice has led the other villagers to contribute a total of Rs. 15,000 for the Defence Fund.

* * * *

A TRUE SADHU

SANT KALIDAS had heard of the Chinese attack on our borders. He also saw that villagers, in spite of their poverty were contributing their mite to the Defence Fund. He could not resist the temptation of giving up whatever he had. Consequently, he carried a small bundle containing all his life's savings. He gave it to the Pradhan of Karanpur Panchayat Samiti. The amount came out to be Rs. 400. Inspired by his example, Shri Gurdip Singh, a petty farmer donated Rs. 1,000 to the Defence Fund.

* * * *

PANCHAYAT SAMITI MEMBERS FOREGO ALLOWANCES

THE MEMBERS of the Panchayat Samiti, Karanpur, Rajasthan, have decided to forego their T.A. and D.A. until the emergency is over. Shri Bholu Ram, Pradhan has decided that he would in addition contribute Rs. 50 per month to the Defence Fund during the emergency period. It is understood that this Panchayat Samiti has so far collected Rs. 2,50,000 for the National Defence Fund.

* * * *

NO FALSE SENSE OF DIGNITY

WHEN NATION calls, no false sense of pride or dignity comes in the way of doing one's duty. This came to light when the two young boys, Mohan and Rajan, aged 11 years and 7 years respectively, the sons of a Collector were seen taking to shoe-shining in order to earn money for the Defence Fund. After their school hours, they would resort to shoe-shining in the streets of Banswara in Rajasthan and in this way collected an amount of Rs. 101 which was donated to the Defence Fund.

Two youngsters take to shoe-shining to earn money for the Defence Fund.

* * * *

TEN BIGHAS OF LAND DONATED

SHRI PITAMBAR DASS is a refugee from Punjab resettled in a village in Jahajpur Panchayat Samiti in Rajasthan. He is shouldering the responsibility of a large family. Though poor in finances, he is not poor of heart. At the time of the visit of the Deputy Minister Finance, Rajasthan, to Jahajpur, he was the first man to donate ten bighas of his land and Rs. 5 for the Defence Fund, after uttering the following couplet :

मौत है मंजूर मुझको, सूली चढ़े सारा बदन ।
देश पर म मर मिटूं, बेवतन और बेकफन ।।

(I shall embrace death; even crucification of the body. Let me sacrifice myself for the country,—no matter shroudless or shelterless.)

A GRAM SEVAK'S GESTURE

A NOTABLE contribution has been received from Shri M. R. Wamankar, a Village Level Worker of Neempani in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh. He has donated all the prize money amounting to Rs. 250 for the National Defence Fund. Shri Wamankar was awarded this prize for being adjudged the best Village Level Worker in Betul district for the year 1961-62.

* * * *

MAHANT DONATES LAND

MAHANT SHRI KAUSHAL Kishore Das of village Janigeri in the Durg tehsil of Madhya Pradesh, has donated his 70 acres of fertile land for the National Defence Fund. The present value of the land is estimated at Rs. 35,000.

* * * *

OFFERS FROM SARPANCHES

THE SARPANCH of Sapotra Gram Panchayat of Sawai Madhopur district in Rajasthan has donated Rs. 200 and will contribute Rs. 25 every month. The Sarpanch of Rodkala has also donated Rs. 90 and will contribute Rs. 15 every month to the Defence Fund.

* * * *

SAMITI ASTIR WITH SELF-SACRIFICE

IN PANCHAYAT Samiti, Gobindgarh, Rajasthan, every official as well as non-official functionary has something to contribute to the National Defence. Its Pradhan Shri Sita Ram Sharma has offered a donation of Rs. 300. Shri Rawat Man Singh, a member of the Panchayat Samiti, has donated Rs. 691. Most of the members have donated in cash and decided to forego their Daily Allowance. The Vikas Adhikari has contributed his one month's salary, whereas the staff has donated one day's salary and declared not to draw any Travelling Allowance when they visit the villages on holidays in connection with National Defence Fund. Shri Chandra Prakash, an accountant of the Samiti has volunteered to join military. The samiti has already collected Rs. 45,000 as against the proposed amount of Rs. 68,000 at the rate of Rs. 2,000 from each Panchayat.

* * * *

(Left) *Shri Kan Singh, an ex-military man who offered his fourth and last son, Shri Umed Singh* (Right) *also for serving in the Army for the defence of the country.*

V.L.W's. GENEROUS GESTURE

SHRI MOHAN SINGH, Village Level Worker of village Kundanpura in Sanganer Panchayat Samiti in Rajasthan handed over his entire salary of one month to the Vikas Adhikari for the National Defence Fund. Similarly, Shri Ramesh Chand Tyagi and Ramkumar Rishishwar, Village Level Workers in Jaora Block in Madhya Pradesh have donated 5 per cent and 10 per cent of their salaries respectively.

* * * *

JAGIR BONDS AND SON OFFERED

SHRI KAN SINGH, a retired military man of Panchayat Samiti, Gobindgarh, donated all his Jagir bonds worth Rs. 700 to the National Defence Fund. One of his sons was killed in action against the Chinese attack. Two other sons are already serving on the Front. The remaining fourth son whom he had kept at home to support him in his old age, was also presented to the Chief Minister, Rajasthan for active service on the Front.

* * * *

TRANSISTOR RADIO FOR JAWANS

THE SARPANCH of Jeewana Panchayat in Sayala Panchayat Samiti in Rajasthan, has sent a gift of a transistor radio set for Jawans.

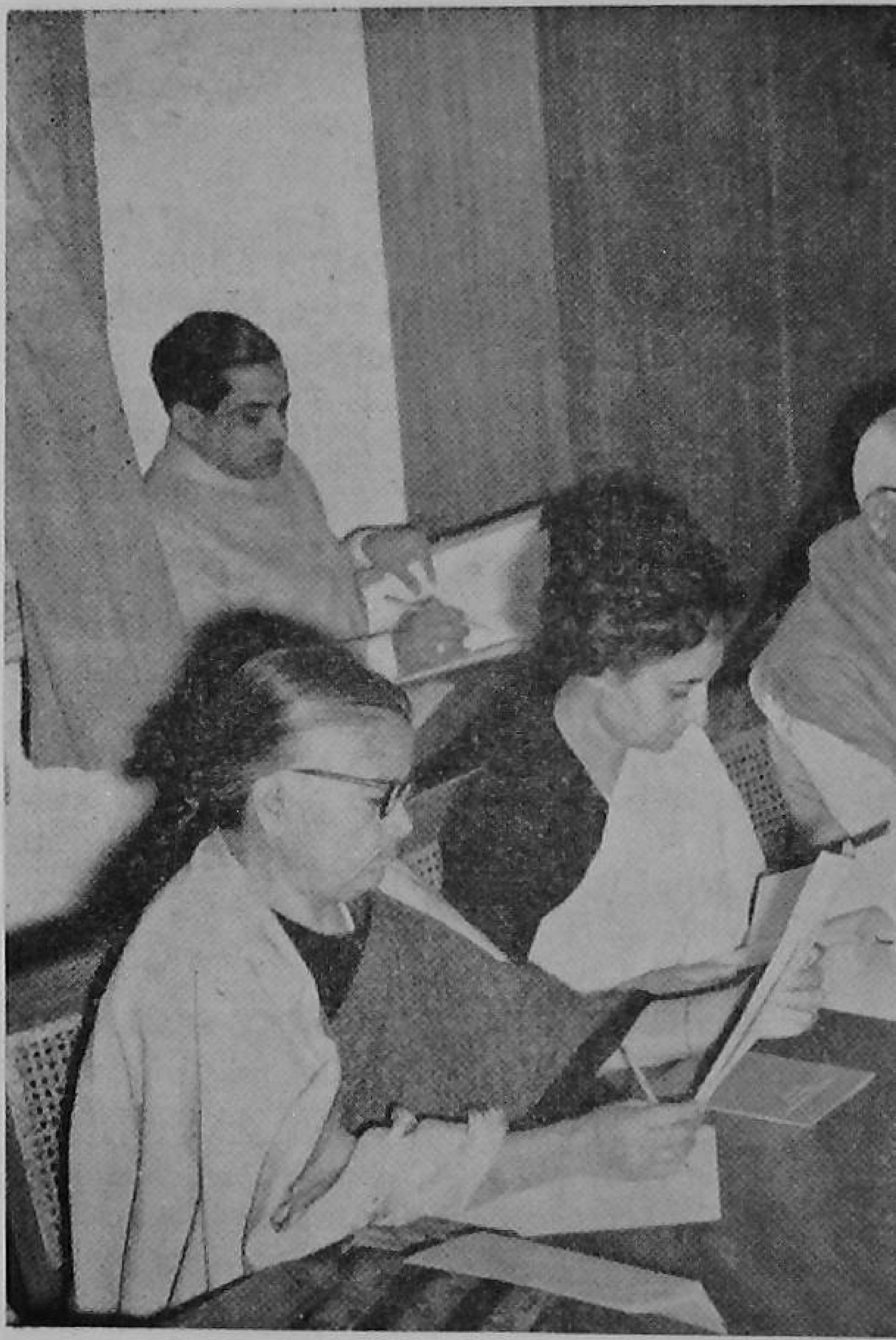
(*Continued on page* 16)

ALL INDIA VOLUNTAR

(*By O*

KRISHI BHAWAN was the venue of a conference of 27 All India Voluntary Organisations held on 29th December, 1962. The participants included representatives of organisations amongst others the newly set up Central Citizens' Council, All India Women's Conference, Bharat Sevak Samaj, All India Panchayat Parishad, Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, National Co-operative Union, Central Social Welfare Board, Indian Red Cross Society, Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development, Y.M.C.A., etc.

Such a large number of voluntary organisations had perhaps seldom met before in a single conference. The issue that confronted them this time was also perhaps the most serious and onerous one ever faced by the country since Independence. It was how to mobilise rural India,—the home of 80% of our people,—to meet effectively the challenge thrown by the Chinese attack on our Northern Frontier. The challenge was not so much to the integrity of our land which of course was there. But it was directed mostly against our way of life, that is democracy itself. Shri S. K. Dey, Minister summed up the objective of the Conference when he remarked, "Our democratic system has to accept the challenge thrown by the totalitarian system of the Chinese. We can do so successfully only when we prove through our actions that we can secure effective defence as well as development of our country through democratic means. If the country-wide mobilisation of rural manpower and resources were attempted through the extension of governmental agencies, the inexorable logic of the step would lead to totalitarianism,—the opposite of what we seek to achieve. The vitality of democracy can be sustained only through the organised voluntary efforts of the people themselves. The all-important task of the generation of popular initiative and enthusiasm and their sustained guidance can only be carried out by the voluntary organisations."



Representatives of the Voluntary

Continuing, the Minister placed before the Conference the scheme of Village Volunteer Force and explained how through the provision of the Labour Defence Bank, it would be possible to build up the development and defence of the country through the voluntary labour of the villagers themselves. The willingness of the people to donate at least 12 days' labour in a year for the benefit of

ORGANISATIONS MEET

rrespondent)

sations taking part in the Conference

the community was the main crux of the problem. It was not through compulsion but through love and persuasion that the aforesaid objective was to be realised. Obviously, the voluntary organisations had to play a major role in this. It was for them to awaken the rural masses to do their duty. The representatives of all the organisations unanimously agreed to shoulder this responsibility and promised every help to make the scheme a success.

To start with, Smt. Indira Gandhi, Chairman, Citizens' Central Council, stated that the Council had no independent programmes of its own; neither had any directives been issued for undertaking specific programmes. The Council was mainly meant to keep in touch with and co-ordinate the activities of the State Councils. Welcoming the Village Volunteer Force Scheme, she observed that the voluntary organisations had an important role to play in its implementation. In this context, she referred to the special responsibility of these organisations in looking after the families of Jawans. In the rehabilitation of the wounded as well as in finding occupations for the bereaved families, the local people and the local voluntary organisations could be of considerable assistance.

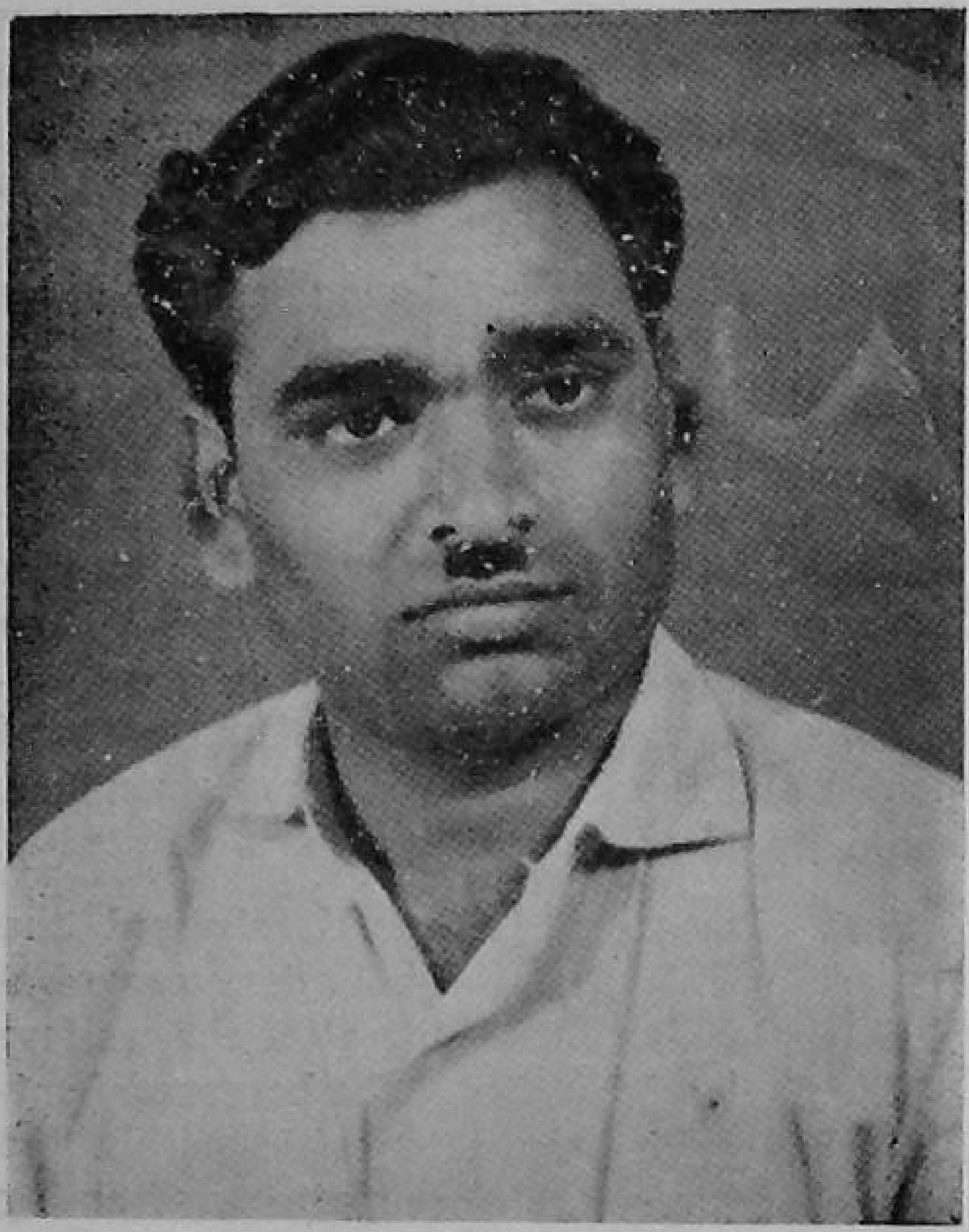
Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh stressed the important role that the voluntary organisations could play in looking after the welfare of the Jawans' families. The bereaved families should be helped to settle within the local areas, in suitable occupations. Training and employment represented the crucial need. She felt that there were already various women's organisations looking after this work but what was required was coordination of their activities.

Shri Balwantrai Mehta, welcoming the idea of the conference of voluntary organisations, stated that all the work in the rural areas should be channelized through the Panchayats and Co-operatives which are the basic institutions. He suggested that each voluntary organisation should take up one or two specific activities so as to avoid overlapping and duplication of efforts.

Shri L. C. Jain of the National Co-operative Union suggested that the villagers should be encouraged to increase agricultural production and whatever extra grain was produced as a result, should be given for the defence effort. In this way, under the "Grains for

(*Continued on page* 16)

DEVI CHAND PATEL—HERO OF BOTH FRONTS



Shri Devi Chand Patel

SHRI DEVI CHAND PATEL, a Gram Sevak in Manawar Block of Dharwar District, Madhaya Pradesh belongs to that category of officials whose sense of duty, patriotism and hard work shines forth at all places and under all circumstances. He has distinguished himself not only in the field of development but also in what is known as the Defence Effort.

In normal times, he was so devoted to the cause of development, of helping the cultivators of his area to increase their agricultural output, that he secured top position in the district for consecutively two years. Loni village in his circle was declared to be the best village of the district. He was awarded a cycle as a prize for this outstanding work.

The National Emergency in the country brought out his spirit of patriotism more vividly. Along with millions of the poor peasants amongst whom he has been living and working, he too decided to contribute his mite towards the National Defence Fund. His thought turned to the valuable prize,—the cycle ! The country needed hard work. What could be better than that the prize which he got as an award for hard work be dedicated to the country's cause ? So when Shri B. Mandloi, Chief Minister of the State visited the place, he donated the cycle for the National Defence Fund. His noble gesture of selfless love for the country was so highly appreciated by the audience that when the cycle was auctioned, it fetched Rs. 501.

He soon realized that the effective defence of the country required more than ever concentration of effort on food production. He well understood the important role that the Village Volunteer Force being newly raised was to play in this regard. Consequently, he worked day and night to raise this force. In less than a month, he succeeded in organising Village Volunteer Force in fifteen out of twenty villages in his circle. He collected Rs. 600 from the villages as part of their contribution for the training of the Dalpatis and Up-Dalpatis of the Village Volunteer Force.

Although Manawar is a tribal block and the people there are extremely poor and backward, it has contributed over Rs. one lakh to the National Defence Fund,—the largest in the district. The credit for this goes largely to him since this has been made possible as a result of his inspiring leadership and hard work amongst the tribal people with whom he has got intimate contacts. From his circle alone, more than Rs. 20,000 have been collected.

Shri Patel has been working in Manawar block since its inception in 1958. He has 6 Gram Panchayats and 20 villages in his circle. Coming as he does from a family of farmers, he feels at home amongst the farmers of his area. His mixing freely with them has earned him great popularity which is the main reason of his success. His word of advice is a word of command to the villagers who have got implicit faith in him. Their love for him makes him work hard day and night. The area being surrounded by hilly tracts, communications are not easy enough. Yet he travels 10 miles every day on cycle or on foot.

He has brought about considerable awakening amongst the tribal people in so far as improved agricultural practices are concerned. Whereas 6 years ago, nobody knew the use of fertilisers, today about 3,000 mds. is consumed in his circle. Green manuring was attempted by a few peasants here and there. Today, it has become the commonly accepted practice. There are regular compost pits in almost all the villages. 54 per cent of his area has been brought under double cropping. About 80 per cent of cultivators are using improved seeds. In 17 out of 20 villages a Co-operative Society is functioning actively. The Grain Gola scheme is running successfully in Loni village of his circle.

Shri Patel is of cheerful disposition and amiable manners. He is a willing worker and is, therefore, liked not only by the people but by the block and district officials as well. The following remark by the Deputy Director of Agriculture in the inspection note-book is a fitting tribute to his character and efficiency as Village Level Worker :

"I examined the details regarding the Demonstration Centre set up by Village Level Worker, Manawar and I was impressed with the records maintained by him. I may say that this is a single instance where such nice records of Demonstration Centre are maintained in this whole Division."

LETTERS

(*Continued from page* 3)

TOO MANY COOKS

SIR,

IT IS a common saying that "too many cooks spoil the broth". Unfortunately, this is too true of the chaotic conditions prevailing in respect of the watch and ward condition of the villages in our State. There are far too many "dals" and "Senas" to look after the security of the villages. First, we had the "home-guard" to assist the police. Then came the 'Raksha Dal',—a Volunteer Force raised from amongst the people with the avowed objective of helping the administration in the maintenance of law and order and of providing assistance to the people in times of emergency. We had also the Lok Sahayak Sena. And now it is understood that a third force *viz.* Village Volunteer Force is being raised in every village with almost identical aims. The existence of so many Volunteer Forces is likely to lead to duplication of efforts, and consequent mutual conflicts, and wranglings. The law and order position, instead of improving, will deteriorate. It will be in the fitness of things if only one Volunteer Force is allowed to function. And if for any reason, it is necessary to have more than one such Force they should be assigned separate roles to perform.

JULLUNDUR,
3-1-1963

Yours sincerely,
Lal Singh

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It is understood that the Punjab Government is already taking steps to avoid the existing duplication by having a single Volunteer Force—**Ed.**

GUJARAT B.D.Os. RESOLVE TO MEET EMERGENCY

At a Conference held in Ahmedabad on November 27 and 28, last year, all B.D.Os. of the Gujarat State resolved to do their best to meet the National Emergency. They undertook to promote some development activities which are bound to give a fillip to the defence efforts as well. We give here a gist of some of their outstanding decisions, which we believe, are likely to prove useful to their other colleagues as well.—**Ed.**

We, the Block Development Officers, assure the Government that we shall always be ready to serve whenever and wherever required; be it on the war-front or on the home-front, and request the Government to utilise our services at any time and place considered fit by it.

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We will contribute our one day's pay every month to the Chief Minister's Sainik Fund and invest an amount equal to two days' pay in the Defence Savings Schemes from November 1, 1962 till the National Emergency continues.

* * * *

The First instalment of contributions from the Block Development areas to the Fund up to December 31, 1962 will be at the rate of Rs. 1 per head, *i.e.* Rs. 1,50,00,000 and thereafter at the rate of 25 nP. per head every month till the Emergency lasts.

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It is hereby resolved to collect 60,000 tolas of gold by March 31, 1963 from Block Development areas at the average rate of about 3 tolas per village.

* * * *

It is resolved to enlist youths at the rate of 5 per cent of the population to the village defence party. The minimum number for a unit will be 20 persons and accordingly there will be at least one unit for every village having a population of about 400 persons. In a village having a population of less than 400 persons, if there are 20 persons desirous of being so enlisted, an independent unit will be formed; but if there are less than 20 youths available for such purposes, a unit will be formed in combination with another village. A minimum of 7.5 lakh members of Gram Rakshak Dal will be enrolled in all the Block Development areas by March 31, 1963.

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We, the Block Development Officers, are prepared to give our blood whenever called for and volunteer our names for the purpose. We also resolve to enlist two lakh citizens in Block Development areas at the rate of 1,000 citizens per block, for blood donations, whenever required.

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It is resolved to establish labour banks in at least 50 per cent of villages in the Gujarat State and to utilise the voluntary labour available through such labour banks for defence and for greater production in a planned manner.

* * * *

This Conference resolves to increase by the end of 1963-64 agricultural production to the extent of 20% over the average production secured in the Second Plan. This should be done by carrying to every agriculturist the message given by the Prime Minister that every agriculturist working on the farm is a soldier on the production front and by harnessing all available resources of agricultural development. The proportion of food production in this programme should be at least one and a half times the food requirements of the village.

In order to achieve the above targets, the following programme is adopted :—

(i) Taking into consideration the irrigation potential and the preparedness of the people to utilise this potential, a programme to irrigate 387,000 acres of land, during 1963-64 is adopted.

(ii) It is further decided that irrigators using the tube-well water in Mehsana, Banaskantha and Ahmedabad districts should draw water in additional 9,000 acres of land.

(iii) It is decided to sink 10,000 new wells, repair 1,400 old wells, to instal 6,000 new oil engines and pumping sets and if possible, 1,500 electric motors.

(iv) The Land Mortgage Bank has decided to extend an additional credit of Rs. 5 crores for 15,000 new wells, 7,500 pumping sets and about 400 tractors. It is resolved to achieve the targets fixed by the Land Mortgage Bank, taking advantage of the financial resources and banking facilities available.

(v) It is resolved to increase the distribution of pure seeds in the year 1963-64 by 25 per cent.

(vi) It is resolved to produce vegetables in additional 50 acres of land in every district.

(vii) It is resolved to increase the use of nitrogenous fertilisers by 50 per cent more in 1962-63.

(viii) It is resolved that 30,000 new pits in the Development Blocks in Gujarat should be dug next year.

(ix) A target to increase green manure production to cover 120,000 acres of land next year is fixed.

(x) All development blocks will strain their every nerve to fulfil the programme and realise the target that will be laid down by the Directorate of Agriculture in respect of bunding.

EVERY VILLAGE should try to gradually attain self-sufficiency in cloth and other products of cottage and village industries. As a first step in this direction, an attempt will be made to increase cloth production by a minimum of 10 per cent in the village industries sector.

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ARRANGEMENTS will be made to cover the remaining 756 villages by co-operatives by March 31, 1963.

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IT IS decided to form village agricultural planning committees in about 4,500 villages, that is, in a minimum of 25 per cent of villages in every Block and in every Gramsevak's circle.

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IT IS decided to increase by March 1963, the present membership of agricultural co-operatives from 853,000 by 20 per cent, that is by an addition of 168,000.

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THE SHARE capital of the co-operatives which totals Rs. 8.12 crores at present should be increased by 10 per cent, that is by Rs. 81 lakhs.

* * * *

NECESSARY arrangements will be made to arrange distribution of credit of Rs. 30 crores in 1962-63 as against Rs. 25 crores in 1961-62 through the Central Co-operative Bank and Co-operative Societies.

* * * *

ALL POSSIBLE efforts will be made in order that every co-operative society pays its current credit in full to the bank and also have 33 per cent of its outstanding dues.

* * * *

IT IS resolved that at least 10 service co-operative societies in each Development Block will start consumers' co-operative stores.

FROM THE CENTRE

MAIN TASK FOR V.L.Ws.

In view of the National Emergency, V.L.Ws. have now been given only one set of task to carry out, namely, organising agricultural extension and supply and helping the village Panchayat and Co-operatives to draw up and implement the village production plans.

* * * *

DRY FARMING PROGRAMME

To meet the requirements of the present situation the targets for dry farming have been revised from 22 million to 50 million acres. The responsibility for the fulfilment of this target has been placed on the Community Development Agency. State Governments are being addressed to step up targets suitably and to break down the programme district, block and village-wise for purposes of implementation. The programme will cover approximately 1,000 blocks in the country which fall within the dry belt. Each Panchayat will be required to stock adequate number of implements (Bund framers, seed drills etc.) required for the purpose. The question of the staff required particularly at State Headquarters is under consideration.

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E.T.C. CONSUMERS STORES WIN PRIZES

Two prizes of Rs. 600 each and another two prizes of Rs. 400 each have been won by the Gram Sevaks' Training Centres at Sawai Madhopur (Rajasthan), Kudige, Coorg district (Mysore), Buldana (Maharashtra) and Baraut in Meerut district (Uttar Pradesh) respectively for having organised the best consumers stores in pursuance of the scheme circulated by the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation.

* * * *

NEW PRIZE BONDS

A new series of Prize Bonds, known as Premium Prize Bonds, are in operation since the beginning of this year. These Bonds are in denominations of Rs. 100 and Rs. 5. They are repayable after five years, from the date of sale indicated on the Bonds, the redemption value being Rs. 5.50 for every Bond of Rs. 5 and Rs. 110 for every Bond of Rs. 100. No other interest will be payable thereon, but these Bonds will be eligible for participation in two draws for prizes, to be held in the year 1964. Prizes of an aggregate amount calculated at Rs. 5 lakhs for each crore of rupees of the Bonds sold, in each denomination, will be awarded in each of the two draws, and only those Bonds which are sold will be taken into consideration for award of the prizes.

* * * *

TRAINING CENTRES REORIENTED

Social Education Organisers and Mukhya Sevikas in Community Development Blocks are to play key roles in implementing the Village Volunteer Force Scheme. The Training Centres are being reoriented accordingly. Appropriate changes in the syllabi of the various courses at these centres have been made. The duration of the courses has also been shortened to help push through the Village Volunteer Force Scheme expeditiously. Each of the Training Centres has been asked to take up the responsibility for implementing the Village Volunteer Force Scheme in five villages selected for intensive development and in additional villages to the largest extent possible. Working in close collaboration with the Block staff they will ensure that the Volunteer Force is properly organised and that the targets set for the various production programmes are reached. In view of the urgent need for short duration field studies to be undertaken by the Training Centres, specially to study the various aspects of Village Volunteer Force, it was felt that one-third of the time of the Centres should be set apart for this purpose both by reducing the number of courses and their duration. The new syllabi would include topics on scouting, guiding, home-

nursing, first-aid, civil defence and courses on agricultural production. There would be adequate emphasis on "group mobilisation". There would also be short seminars for principals and teacher educators of the Teachers' Training Institutions. It was decided that each Mukhya Sevika Training Centre should run three courses of one month's duration each for the training of associate women workers.

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PROGRAMME FOR PRODUCTION TASK FORCES

PANCHAYATS in the country have been asked to prepare immediately a list of programmes to be completed within six months of the inauguration of the Village Volunteer Force Scheme launched on Republic Day. The Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation has informed the Development Commissioners of all States that the Panchayats should formulate proposals determining the labour requirements for each programme and for the formation of the Production Task Force and the Women's Wing. These proposals, which would be placed before the Gram Sabha, should specify a single item of work of the highest priority in each village for stepping up agricultural production, such as excavation of field channels and digging of compost pits. On completion of the item, the Task Force would move on to other jobs under the production programme.

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CO-OPERATIVES AND VILLAGE VOLUNTEER FORCE

IN MAKING a success of the Village Volunteer Force Scheme, the co-ordinated effort of the co-operative institutions is of great importance. It is essential that these organisations at all levels should get together and discuss their plans and programmes in this connection. The Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation has accordingly requested the State Governments that the Registrars of Co-operative Societies, representatives of Co-operative unions and other co-operative institutions at the State level should hold meetings and formulate a detailed programme for implementing the Village Volunteer Force Scheme. Similar Meetings are to be held at the Divisional, District and Block levels to formulate a programme of work.

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ELECTIONS TO PANCHAYATI RAJ BODIES

FOLLOWING the decision of the Central Committee, State Governments have been requested to ensure that the process of establishing Panchayati Raj bodies should go ahead except that no direct elections to the Panchayats or to higher bodies should be held for the duration of the Emergency.

* * * *

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

IN ORDER to achieve proposed increase in agricultural production, the State Governments have been requested to ensure that such programmes are taken up in a concentrated way through village production plans for every village with special emphasis on items such as minor irrigation, soil conservation, development of local manurial resources, dry farming, green manuring, excavation and maintenance of field channels, efficient and economical use of water etc. In regard to field channels it has been suggested that loans to beneficiaries may be given from the Block funds and in cases of default, advances may be given to Panchayats from the same source to enable them to carry out the works and recover the cost from the beneficiaries.

* * * *

PRIZE COMPETITION SCHEMES POSTPONED

AS A MEASURE of economy during the Emergency, the award of monetary prizes to the best Village/Gram Sevak/Gram Sevika under the prize competition schemes has been discontinued. A certificate of merit is proposed to be awarded in lieu.

ALL HONOUR TO THEIR SELF-SACRIFICE

(*Continued from page 7*)

AUSTERITY IN MARRIAGE

SHRI GHASI MAL Kothari of Nagaur in Rajasthan has set an example by curtailing ostensible expenses on the occasion of his son's marriage. He did away with band, fire-works and decorations on this occasion and donated the amount of Rs. 1,000 thus saved to the National Defence Fund.

* * * *

POVERTY CANNOT STIFLE

THAT EVEN extreme poverty cannot stifle the impulse to sacrifice for the sake of the country was demonstrated by Shri Kanchole, a fuel-wood seller of Seondha in Datia District, Madhya Pradesh. He is so poor that he has to buy his ration every day. One day as he was going to the market, having done his day's work, to buy daily rations for his family, he was attracted towards a public meeting which was being held in aid of the National Defence Fund. He took a few moments to think what best he could do. He dipped his hands into his pocket and felt two rupees, his day's earning. But two rupees could not satisfy his sentiments; he ran to his house, fetched a brass 'thali', pawned it and handed over Rs. 5 for the National Defence Fund.

* * * *

BHOODAN FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE

THE VILLAGERS of Narnaul Panchayat Samiti in Punjab have set a pace for Bhoomidan for the National Defence Fund. Shri Jaga Singh of Jant Village and Shri Jaya Narain of Beval village have donated 9 bighas and 12 bighas of land respectively for the National Defence Fund. Two cultivators of villages Jhonju Kalan and Arsvari have donated 148 bighas of land for the National Defence Fund. Shri Umed Singh has so far donated 100 bighas of land. Shri Atar Singh Ex-M.L.A. has donated 75 bighas for the Defence Fund. Farmers of 13 villages have offered the entire produce of 291 bighas of land for the National Defence Fund.

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ALL INDIA VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS MEET

(*Continued from page 9*)

Defence" programme, each village could be persuaded to produce at least two tons of extra food. The additional grain produced will be fully paid for at the market value. Thus, food production which is one of the vital requirements for defence effort, would be increased and the rural people would have a sense of participation in the defence effort.

Shri C. B. Gupta of the Bharat Sevak Samaj stated that the Samaj had started a Bharat Sevak Dal. 50,000 volunteers had already been enlisted in the Dal and were being trained. Each voluntary organisation should undertake programmes in a few specified fields. All of them should function through the Panchayati Raj institutions.

Shri Subrahmaniam of the Indian Red Cross Society stated that all the 400 branches of the Red Cross had been asked to give training to all those who volunteered, in first-aid and home-nursing. The response from the people had been enthusiastic. The services of the Society were always available for emergency work. The Conference also agreed, on the suggestion of Smt. Deshmukh that, at the State level, a conference of all the local voluntary organisations may be convened by the State Governments to decide on the details of the programmes in which the various all-India and local organisations could assist in the implementation of the Village Volunteer Force scheme.

After some discussion, it was agreed that each of the voluntary organisations would inform the Ministry about its organisational set-up in the various States, its fields of activity and the areas, districts, blocks, etc. where it could undertake specialised activities for helping in the implementation of the Village Volunteer Force scheme. This list would be circulated to the State Governments to enable them and Panchayati Raj bodies to utilise the specialised experiences and services of voluntary organisations.

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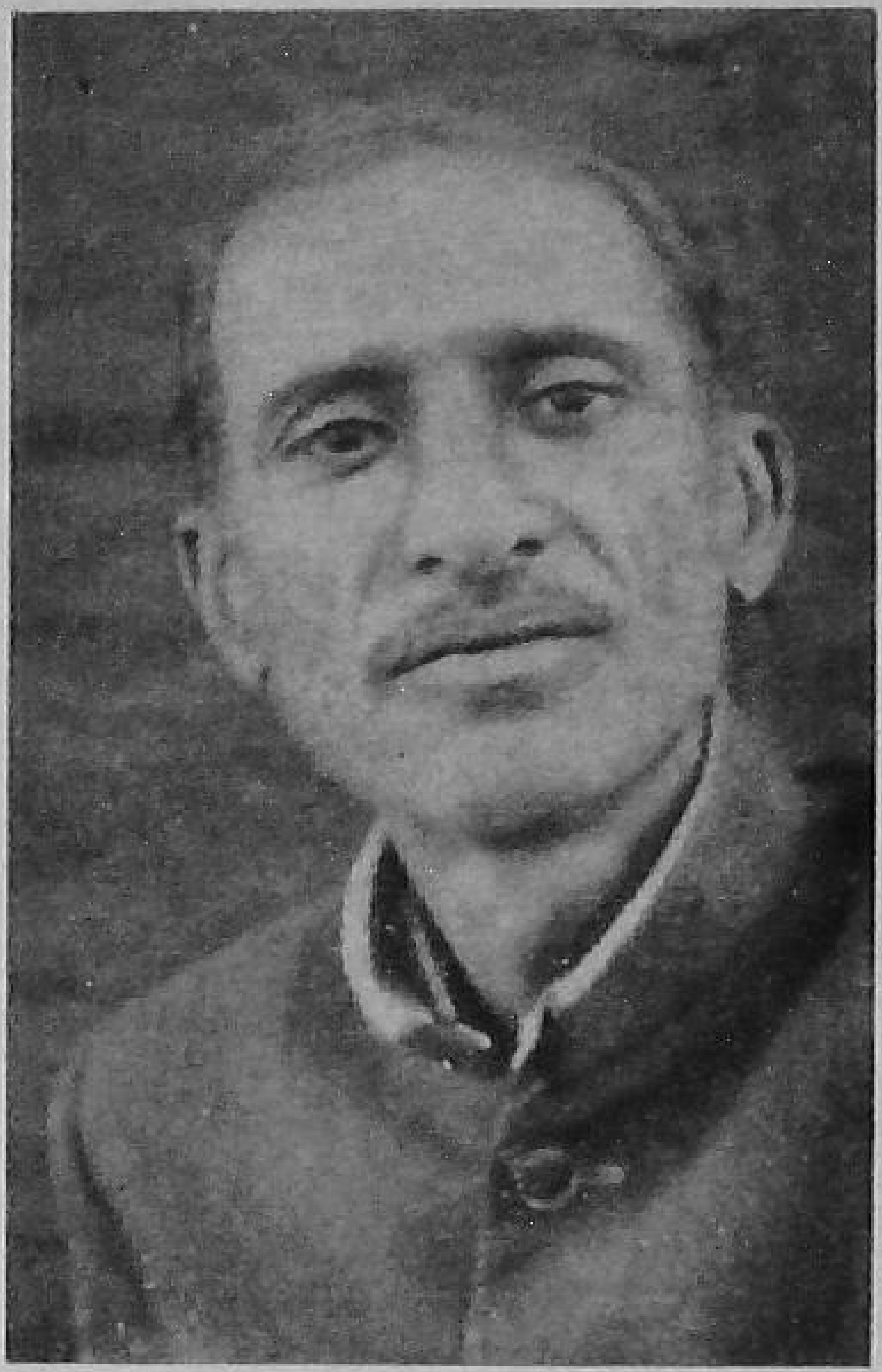
L200DPD/62—GIPF.

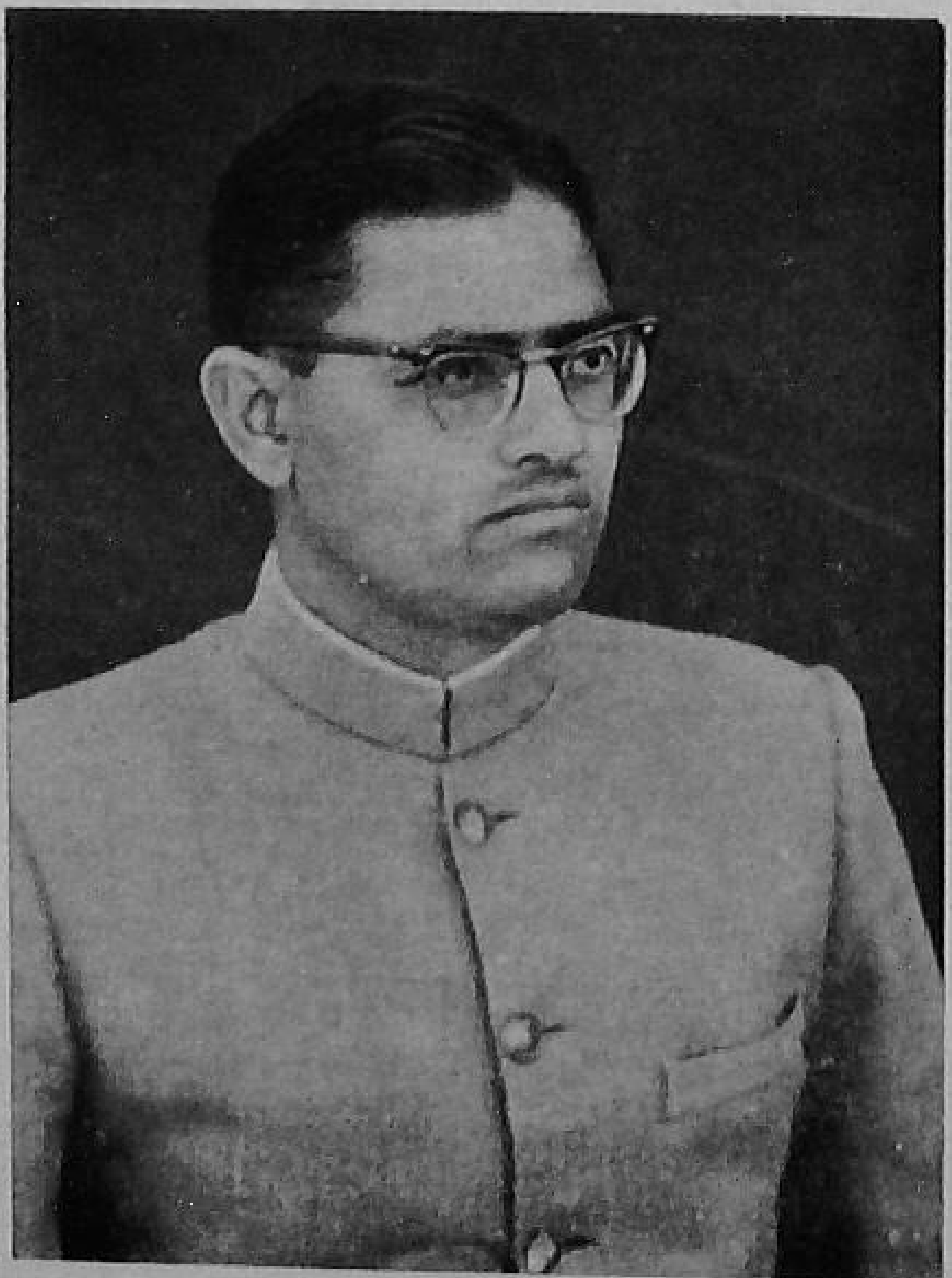
SOLDIERS ON THE HOME-FRONT

Smt. Kahni, a blind widow who gave Rs. 500, her life's savings for the National Defence Fund.

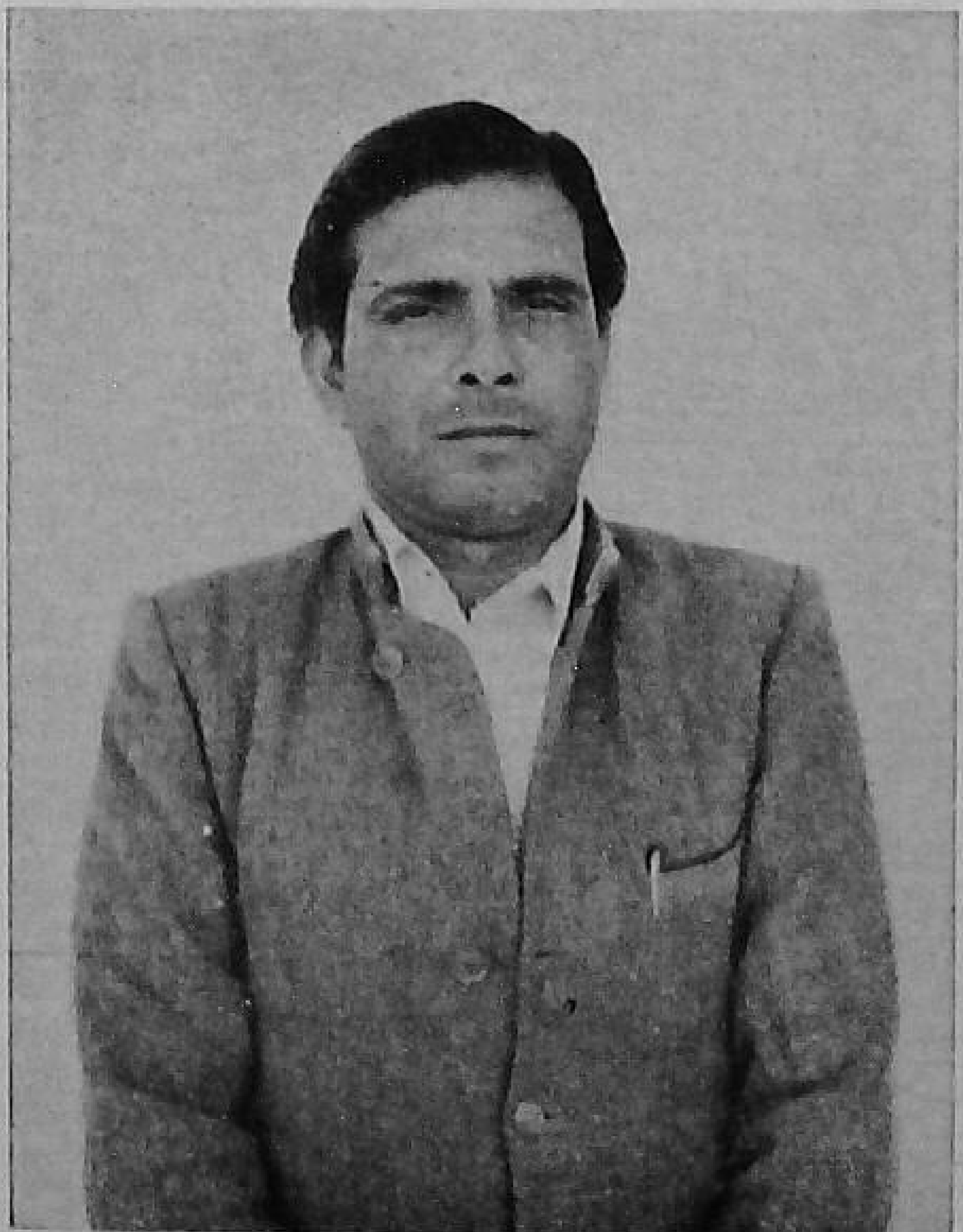


Shri Pitamber Dass, who donated 10 bighas of his fertile land to the National Defence Fund.

Shri Sita Ram Sharma, Pradhan, under whose inspiring leadership, Panchayat Samiti, Govindgarh (Rajasthan) *has collected large contributions for the National Defence Fund.*



Shri Chandra Prakash, Accountant of Govindgarh Panchayat Samiti (Rajasthan) *has volunteered to join the Army. He has also taken keen interest in collecting contributions for the Defence Fund.*



Members of the newly raised Village Volunteer Force doing Shramdan on a tank in village Chhatarpur near Delhi. The scheme of Defence Labour Bank envisages that all able-bodied adult members of the village should put in at least 12 days' labour in a year on some project calculated to increase agricultural production.

Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Faridabad, and published by the Director, Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Delhi-6, on behalf of the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation.

Regd. No. D—877.